



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kentucky Firewise Community Grants Now Available** *Applications accepted through July 15*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (May 29, 2012) – The Kentucky Division of Forestry is currently accepting applications for this year's Firewise Community Grant Program. Kentucky Firewise is a program designed to provide technical and financial assistance to communities, counties and organizations in fire-prone areas known as the wildland/urban interface.

Firewise grants provide funding for a variety of activities and projects that emphasize safe planning and design, effective emergency response and individual responsibility for safer home design. Specifically, the grant program includes the following objectives:

- Provides cost-share funds for fire mitigation and Firewise activities;
- Fosters closer relationships with fire departments and communities;
- Educates the public about the benefits of fire mitigation;
- Reduces the risks of wildfire in wildland/urban interface areas; and
- Requires completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Requests for grant funding range from \$1,000 to \$20,000 and will be administered through a cost-share reimbursement system. All grant recipients must provide a match of 20 percent of the total project costs with non-federal or in-kind contributions. Eligible projects include development of local Firewise Councils; GIS mapping of at-risk communities; mechanical removal or reduction of hazardous fuels; Firewise or fire mitigation educational activities; and consulting services to complete a community wildfire hazard assessment or a CWPP.

Additional details about eligibility and program objectives along with application forms and proposal instructions are available on the division's website:

<http://forestry.ky.gov/GrantOpportunities/Pages/default.aspx>.

Grant proposals must be received by the Kentucky Division of Forestry, 627 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601 by 4:30 p.m. EDT on July 15, 2012. For additional information, please contact Jennifer Turner at 1-800-866-0555.

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